

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Council President, Dave Hess, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: Alex Cortezzo III, Tony Curcio, Jon Faust, David Valley, and Jeff Yob. Also in attendance were Mayor James Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysher and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman Kerry Gassler.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Personnel and Real Estate. Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

On motion by Tony Curcio to give a one dollar increase per hour for the Office Staff and seconded by Jeff Yob. Roll call taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Jon Faust to deny the offer made for the Fire House since they did not meet what we are asking and seconded by Alex Cortezzo III. Roll call taken. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Animal Control Officer

Phil Bell came before Council stating that he has been receiving calls from Borough residents regarding dogs, cats, and wildlife. He said he would like to return as our Animal Control Officer. Phil is aware that our kennel is no longer operational. Attorney Karasek will look into the Ordinance for Animal Control and Louise Firestone will look at our budget. Dave Hess said Council will take this under consideration.

2. Fire Department Social Hall

George Hinton approached Council stating that when the Borough purchased the Municipal Building there was discussion on building a new social hall for the Fire Department on the property. He said the Fire Company currently uses the Fire Hall for Bingo and other fundraisers and they have discussed having the Ambulance Corps join them with other events. George would like to know if Council is in support of the hall and to ask if the Borough Engineer could give them a sketch plan so they can start moving ahead with the design of the building. The Fire Company needs to know what a realistic number would be for the construction of a new fire hall from the Borough Engineer, and after getting the design they would do a price and cost analysis.

On motion by Tony Curcio for Council to support the social hall for the Fire Company and the Borough and to have the Borough Engineer make a sketch plan for them at the cost of the Borough.

On motion by Tony Curcio to amend his original motion to have the Brian Pysher, Borough Engineer to do a fact finding cost analysis to put a Fire Company Social Hall building on the Borough's municipal property, but this does not obligate the Borough to any commitment for construction of the building and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff wanted to know if the property would be leased to the Fire Company or if the Borough would retain ownership. Attorney Karask stated that if the Borough starts making any money making property or project we would lose exempt tax status. Dave asked George if they had a plan in place in the event that the Fire House is sold. George said that there are two churches in the Borough who have been asked about the possibility of temporarily housing bingo.

3. The Blue Mountain Community Library

Judy Piper, 117 East Applegate, Pen Argyl, representing the Blue Mountain Community Library as the Treasurer. Judy thanked Wind Gap for their continued support of the Library, it is greatly appreciated. She introduced Joanne Pavan, Vice President, Judy Hahn, Katy Albanese and Jill Silvius. Jill reviewed the Library 2015 Report with Borough Council. There are over 20,000 items in the Library collection. They currently have 6,157 members, of which 2,794 from Pen Argyl, 2,219 from Plainfield Township and 1,132 from Wind Gap. In an effort to supplement their income they participate in fundraisers at Dietzi's, Slate Pub, Wendy's, Café on Broadway, Pie and ice cream at the Summer Sound Concerts, and appraisal and silent auction, and a bake sale at ACE Hardware. They also had a Christmas tree ornaments fundraiser. These activities brought in \$4,477.13. In addition, they did a mailing to their most frequent patrons and raised \$5,116. They had an income in 2015 of \$34,913.62 and expenses of \$46,193.42 for a balance in the account of \$19,281.94. The three municipalities donate: Pen Argyl - \$8,100, Plainfield Township - \$5,000, Wind Gap - \$5,167.76. Improvements to their building include: building a closet in the adult non-fiction room, installing new spouting, rewiring for more efficient and safer computer service, repainted the ramp, and painted the stairs and second floor. They also had all of their carpets cleaned for free by Diorio Carpet Cleaning Systems. Waste Management provides the library with a few dumpster and free garbage pick-up.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the the minutes of December 22, 2015 and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. In favor: A. Cortezzo III, T. Curcio, J. Faust, D. Hess, and D. Valley. Abstained: J. Yob. Motion carried: 5 – 1.

On motion by Jon Faust to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously

New Business

Council Committee Appointments

E.M.S. – Chairman Alex Cortezzo, Jon Faust
Fire – Chairman Jon Faust, Alex Cortezzo
Regional Police - Mayor Shoemaker, Dave Hess
Emergency Management – Chairman Jeff Yob, Dave Hess
Zoning – Chairman Tony Curcio, Kerry Gassler
Planning – Chairman Kerry Gassler, Alex Cortezzo III

Municipal Authority – Chairman Jeff Yob, Dave Valley
Streets – Chairman Jon Faust, Jeff Yob
Park – Chairman Dave Valley, Alex Cortezzo
Tipping Fees – Chairman Tony Curcio, Jeff Yob
C.O.G. – Chairman Mayor Shoemaker, Dave Valley
Slate Belt Community Partnership – Chairman Dave Valley, Mayor Shoemaker
Technology – Chairman Dave Hess, Louise Firestone, Jeff Yob

2016 Reappointments

On motion by Jeff Yob to re-appoint The Karasek Law Offices LLC as Borough Solicitor at a rate of \$97.50/hr and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to re-appoint The Karasek Law Offices LLC as Borough Planning Solicitor at a rate of \$97.50/hr and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to re-appoint The Molnar Law Office as the Borough Zoning Solicitor at a rate of \$65/hr and seconded by Alex Cortezzo III. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to re-appoint Robert Collura as the Borough Engineer at a rate of \$85/hr (R. Collura) and \$65/hr (B. Pysher) and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Jon Faust to re-appoint Robert Collura as the Borough Sewage Enforcement Officer and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Jeff Yob to re-appoint France, Anderson, Basile and Company as the Borough Auditor at a rate of Not-to-Exceed \$3,850 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Jon Faust to appoint Marguerite Mullin to the Zoning Hearing Board with a three (3) term expiring December 31, 2018 and seconded by Alex Cortezzo III. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to re-appoint Sam Nittle to the Zoning Hearing Board with a three (3) term expiring December 31, 2018 and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Alex Cortezzo III to re-appoint William Wallen to the Planning Commission with a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2019 and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to appoint David Manzo D.Ed. to the Planning Commission with a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2019 and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to appoint Robert Stasak to the Park Board with a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2019 and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Jon Faust to re-appoint Russell W. Deiter to the Wind Gap Municipal Authority with a five (5) year term expiring December 31, 2020 and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to re-appoint Robert Collura as the Alternate Zoning Officer and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Bus Shelters

Dave Hess said that the bus shelters that were purchased in the past are still in storage and have not been used. He said that we will not be using them therefore we should look into selling them. Louise Firestone said there was an article in the newspaper that Upper and Lower Macungie and South Whitehall were looking for bus shelters and they were going for a State Grant. She said that a subsequent article stated that they were not awarded a grant. Louise said she will contact them to find out if they are still interested and if they would like to make an offer.

On motion by Tony Curcio to contact Macungie and the other township to see if they are interested in the bus shelters and to make an offer and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Mayor Shoemaker

The Mayor gave awards to George Hinton and Tony Curcio for their efforts in serving on the committee for the purchase and renovation of the new Municipal Building.

Old Business

1. Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant

Brian said everyone should have documentation regarding the plan comments from a response letter from PennDOT to Traffic Planning and Design (TPD) regarding the plans they submitted. Brian said the main concern for Council tonight is the multijurisdictional agreement. Because the signals are both in Plainfield Township and Wind Gap, PennDOT requires us to have this agreement on file. Brian asked for Council's permission so that the agreement can be sent to Plainfield Township for their review and signature. Attorney Karasek said he would like to look this agreement over either prior to it being sent to Plainfield or in conjunction with it being reviewed by Plainfield. Dave said for Attorney Karasek to look this over and let Brian know when to send it over to Plainfield. Brian said that they also want to add a repeater by the Shell Station across from the old Roberti property on South Broadway. The Borough has two options, one; the repeater can be attached to an existing pole, but would require having a utility agreement and paying a monthly fee or two; the Borough can put up our own pole and maintain it. PennDOT maintains a right-of-way of 44 feet from the curb to curb. Broadway is ordained at 60 feet, so we can put a pole in and put the repeater on it.

Brian's recommendation is to put our own pole in rather than getting an attachment agreement with the utility. Once we have the agreement they will move ahead with bid specifications and put this out to bid for construction this spring. Brian said we will station a computer at Slate Belt Regional Police.

2. GIS

Deb Harbison said she, with the assistance of Rich Fox, would like to collect street signs, stop signs and telephone pole information using the Trimble to download into our GIS map. She called in a GIS Analyst (Joe Laky) from Northampton County to assist with putting the Trimble data into our system. Mr. Laky informed us that there is a new and improved process that we can purchase. We received a quote from Keystone Precision Instruments of \$2,695.00 for upgrading and training. Deb said we are also looking into getting all of the Zoning information into GIS. Brian said the ability to have the Zoning attached to the GIS will be very helpful.

On motion by Jeff Yob to spend \$2,695 to get our GIS system updated and seconded by Alex Cortezzo. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Shoemaker gave a brief Slate Belt Regional Police Report: The Police Department responded to 5,465 calls in 2015 (1,768 Wind Gap, 1,734 Pen Argyl, 1,961 Plainfield).

4. 2016 Firemen's Picnic. George Hinton informed Council that the picnic is scheduled for June 16, June 17 and June 18, 2016. He asked Council to waive the restriction on no alcohol allowed in the Park as the firemen would like to have a beer, clam and wing tent. Jeff Yob stated that he would like the Fire Department to visit with the Park Board to make them aware of their intent for the picnic, specifically for the sale of alcohol.

On motion by Tony Curcio to allow the firemen to serve alcohol in the Wind Gap Borough Park on June 16, 17 and 18 in conjunction with their clam and wing tent and provide the Borough with a copy of their liability insurance with the Borough named as an additional insured and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Slate Belt Council of Governments (COG)

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the COG will be meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The COG is exploring hiring a new Executive Director. The COG received a grant from Northampton County in the amount of \$10,000 for an Animal Control Officer.

He reminded residents that snow must be removed from sidewalks with a 24 hour period following the snow.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of January 19, 2016. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of January 19, 2016 adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator